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THIS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL  
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**Consumer Price Index for Energy and Food  
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA  
November 2001**

Energy costs in the Detroit area fell 5.5 percent in November following a sharp 12.2 percent drop a month earlier. The latest setback was well above seasonal November declines averaging 0.8 percent over the previous 10 years, according to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein in Chicago. Grocery food prices were also lower in November as the food at home index fell 1.0 percent, offsetting most of the 1.1 percent gain in October.

The November decline in energy costs was mostly attributed to falling gasoline prices, which dropped 10.1 percent from October levels. A 3.8 percent dip in electricity costs also contributed but to a much lesser extent. Electricity costs usually fall in November as utilities move to lower winter rates. However, this decline was well above previous November setbacks which averaged 0.8 percent over the previous four years. The cost of utility natural gas service edged up 0.3 percent over the month following three months of decline.

Compared with a year ago, energy costs were down 11.0 percent. This follows sharp gains of 12.3 and 10.2 percent in the previous two years. All of the current annual setback was due to sharply lower gasoline prices, which fell 24.1 percent from a year ago. This decline was in contrast to gasoline price increases of 22.9 and 22.7 percent in 1999 and 2000, respectively. Electricity costs were unchanged from a year earlier after posting a 4.3 percent decline in the previous 12 months. Utility natural gas costs rose 8.9 percent in the past year following a small 0.5 percent decline a year ago.

The decline in grocery food prices in November was the sixth monthly decline in the first 11 months of 2001. Over the past 12 months, grocery food prices were 1.7 percent higher. This was below a 4.4 percent hike a year earlier.

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Scheduled release date for December 2001 CPI: Wednesday, January 16, 2002

### CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Detroit area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Detroit is (313) 226-7558.

### BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 200 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880 option 1 and order document 1000.

### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain an U.S. City average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data - 1982-84 that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the *BLS Handbook of Methods*, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**

**Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2000	Sep. 2001	Oct. 2001
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	-	174.8	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100) .....	-	519.6	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	-	169.6	-	-	-	-
Food .....	-	169.1	-	-	-	-
Food at home .....	168.0	169.8	168.1	1.7	0.1	-1.0
Food away from home .....	-	169.1	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	-	171.4	-	-	-	-
Housing .....	-	167.1	-	-	-	-
Shelter .....	191.9	193.2	193.9	2.3	1.0	.4
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	177.4	178.2	179.2	2.8	1.0	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	198.3	198.8	200.0	2.6	.9	.6
Fuels and utilities .....	-	136.5	-	-	-	-
Fuels .....	111.8	111.0	109.3	2.9	-2.2	-1.5
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	114.0	113.2	111.2	4.2	-2.5	-1.8
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	131.4	130.3	125.4	.0	-4.6	-3.8
Utility natural gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	101.9	101.3	101.6	8.9	-.3	.3
Household furnishings and operations .....	-	122.7	-	-	-	-
Apparel .....	-	123.5	-	-	-	-
Transportation .....	-	167.5	-	-	-	-
Private transportation .....	-	165.7	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel .....	148.9	115.2	103.6	-24.0	-30.4	-10.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	148.3	114.7	103.1	-24.1	-30.5	-10.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	150.3	115.9	103.7	-24.5	-31.0	-10.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	165.0	128.7	114.7	-24.0	-30.5	-10.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	148.3	115.0	106.0	-22.6	-28.5	-7.8
Medical care .....	-	276.0	-	-	-	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	-	106.7	-	-	-	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	-	109.5	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services .....	-	289.2	-	-	-	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	-	174.8	-	-	-	-
Commodities .....	-	147.8	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	-	135.8	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	-	144.5	-	-	-	-
Durables .....	-	122.1	-	-	-	-
Services .....	-	203.1	-	-	-	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	-	170.5	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter .....	-	170.0	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food .....	-	137.3	-	-	-	-
Nondurables .....	-	157.1	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food .....	-	146.3	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	-	219.3	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services .....	-	196.8	-	-	-	-
Energy .....	129.7	113.9	107.6	-11.0	-17.0	-5.5
All items less energy .....	-	183.2	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy .....	-	186.6	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.